

Hartford COVID Medical Experts Answers Questions

BY DONNA SWARR

On Saturday, January 30th, there was a town hall meeting where an assembled panel of medical experts and practitioners discussed the COVID-9 vaccine rollout, as well as other preventative measures.

Among the healthcare professionals present at the meeting were Keith Grant, APRN Senior System Director for the Infection Prevention at Hartford Healthcare; Dr. Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, Chief of Infectious Diseases, St. Francis Hospital; Dr. Tekisha Everette, Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions and member of the Governor's Vaccine Advisory Group; Nichelle Mullins—President, Charter Oak Health Center; and Dr. Morris Papernik, Sanitas Medical Center.

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Easiest Ways To For Those Age 75 And Over Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

By Phone:

Multilingual State Line: 877-918-2224, M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Significant improvement have been made to the state line, very short wait.

Multilingual Hartford Healthcare Line: 860-827-7690, M-F 800 AM - 5:00 PM

Multilingual City Health Dept: 860-757-4830, M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. City is expanding staffing to answer calls.

Online:

ct.gov/covicvaccine: State of CT: Put your zip code in top corner

HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine: Hartford Healthcare (Hartford Hospital):

TrinityHealthOfNE.org/appointment: Trinity Healthcare (St. Francis Hospital)

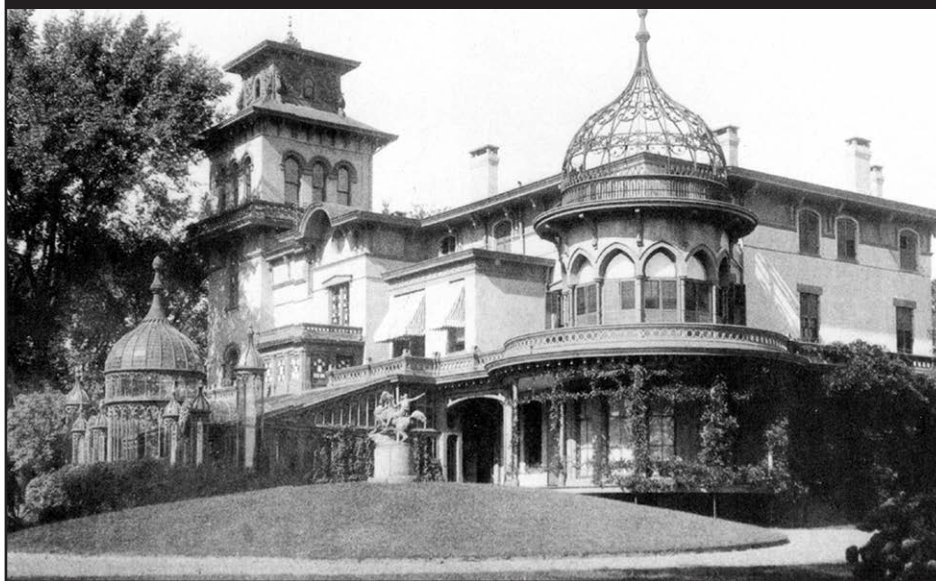
City of Hartford: <https://www.hartford-ct.gov>. There is a link at the top of the City of Hartford website to the City Vaccine Interest Online Form. They will help residents age 75+ to get an appointment or notify those 65+ when they can get an appointment. It does ask if you have insurance, but you will not be charged. And if you do not have insurance, you can still sign up.



A Church that Welcomes All

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church on Capitol Avenue in Downtown Hartford is one of the few churches in Connecticut that allows pets into mass. Father Charles Jacobs, pastor of the church, is shown greeting parishioners at the close of the mass with his pet dog Bridgid. Like other churches in Connecticut, Holy Trinity has been limited to 100 people at worship services to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. But on Monday, Governor Ned Lamont said that he plans to remove that limit soon. Lamont also said the state will soon extend the restaurant curfew from 10 pm to 11 pm due to the continuing decline of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut. (Hart photo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



Armsmear, the mansion of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt on Wethersfield Avenue, is one of the grandest homes in Hartford – but it was even grander when it was built, as the photo above shows. The glassed-in portions of the building have since been removed but the equestrian statue in the foreground is still on the grounds. The photo shows the south and part of the east sides of Armsmear. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center; Hartford Public Library).

NEWS BRIEFS

Sign Up for Hartford Athletic Open Tryouts

Hartford Athletic will be hosting 2021 Open Tryouts in mid-February. Due to limited capacity, please sign up for the wait list below to reserve your place in line. Once the final date and location have been determined, the team will reach out to those on the Wait List first to purchase their registration. In the first two seasons, the team has signed three players to the first team out of open tryouts including current players Conor McGlynn and Alfonso Vazquez. Overall, five players were invited to continue their trial during preseason in 2020. For more information, go to <https://www.hartfordathletic.com/>

Virtual Public Comment and City Council Meeting February 8

On Monday, February 8th, the Hartford Court of Common Council will hold a virtual public comment and City Council meeting via the WebEx platform. These meetings will also be broadcast by Hartford Public Access Television with recordings made available on the HPA TV YouTube page (or channel 96 for Comcast/Xfinity customers). Public comment will start at 6 pm followed by the council meeting at 7 pm. To sign up to speak, please contact to David Grant (860) 757-9738, david.grant@hartford.gov. The deadline to register is 5:20 pm, Monday, February 8th. Once signed up, participants will be given a conference number and are asked to call in by 5:40pm to receive further instructions. Language interpreter(s) for the hearing impaired can be available if requested in advance.

MARG Meets Feb. 11

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 11, at 6 pm in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Liany Arroyo, Director of the City of Hartford Department of Health will be on hand to

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BHCA Black History Month Virtual Celebration

The Blue Hills Civic Association (BHCA) will kick off Black History Month on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with a virtual celebration. The event, entitled "Looking Back, Moving Forward" will focus on the organization's activities over the past year, and will honor five neighborhood heroes.

The honorees include: Denise Best, former Chair--Upper Albany Neighborhood Revitalization Zone; Lew Brown, former broadcast journalist--WPOP, WKND, and NBC Channel 30; William Costen, former NFL player/photographer--Costen Cultural Exhibition; Douglas McCrory, State Senator representing the 2nd Senatorial District; and Patricia Williams--Vice-President, Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative (Posthumous).

In addition to the honorees, Blue Hills Civic Association will also pay special tribute by remembering three individuals who passed away

recently for their contributions to the organization, the City of Hartford, and its residents: Oz Griebel, Former Metro Hartford Alliance CEO; Stephen Goddard, attorney; and Elizabeth Brad Noel, educator.



BHCA Executive Director, Vicki Gallon-Clark says "We thought the theme, "Looking Back, Moving Forward" is appropriate to share some of the lessons we learned in 2020, and apply these valuable lessons to what we will be doing this year. We are excited to share what we have learned with you on February 4th".

"Like many organizations, the

pandemic has forced us to adapt and be more creative. This event reflects on the organization's work over the past year through our programs, community events, and in the diversity of the people who touched BHCA, recognizing and remembering everyone's unique and highly valued contributions", says Victoria Fennell, BHCA Board Chair.

The event is free, with registration on Eventbrite under: BHCA Annual Event to Launch Black History 2021-Looking Back, Moving Forward

"Looking Back, Moving Forward" can be viewed LIVE on Thursday, February 4 starting at 6:00 p.m. on the organization's Facebook page, Blue Hills Civic Association, and on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/RobwKnIPXAc>). Two special social media hashtags have been created for the event--#BHCA and #LBM4ward--to encourage online conversation during the event.



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Yes, Bridget, there are plans for... SAINT PATRICK'S WEEK (Honoring P.V. O'Donnell)

Note: Plans are just that - plans. Uncontrollable factors include COVID-19 restrictions, inclement weather, fundraising shortfalls... However, stressing the positive, we can overcome many difficulties. Anything can be postponed, or even go virtual.

Starting on Saturday, March 13 and extending through Friday, March 19, Hartford will celebrate Saint Patrick's Week with an emphasis on Irish culture and history. The event will be headquartered on Pratt Street, Downtown Hartford. Initial plans include:

- Information on Irish organizations throughout the state and region.
- Restaurants like Vaughan's Public House and the Arch Street Tavern will be encouraged to offer Irish music, food and drink.
- Musical presentations, if conditions allow, may include invited performers Dan and Bonnie Milner (NYC); Claudine Langille (VT); Don Sineti (Mystic Seaport); Danny Ringrose and Jean Freeman; Tony Morris and Jim Bunting; Bill Wallach and others.

Potential Schedule:

- Saturday March 13: Opening Reception from 5 – 7pm
- Sunday, March 14: Presentation by Mike Fitzpatrick on the life and music of tenor John McCormack 2 – 4pm
- Irish Seisiun (session) 4 – 7pm
- Monday, March 15 through Friday, March 19: Lecture and/or Storytelling at 99 Pratt from 4 – 7pm (Music extended on Saint Patrick's Day)
- All activities will be telecast on AccessTV.org (times to be announced)

Sponsors and Participants (as of Feb 1)

- The Richard P. Garmany Fund through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

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- Storefronts on Pratt Street will be decorated and will include historic images and themes. These will be designed and installed by early March.
- If weather permits, music on Pratt Street will be provided early evening on all seven dates. Performances also will be indoors (according to CDC guidelines).
- Presentations, lectures and storytelling at 99 Pratt (corner of Pratt and Trumbull.)
- Storyboards honoring the 10th anniversary of P.V. O'Donnell's passing. P.V. was a major figure in Irish traditional music ("trad") in the Greater Hartford area for over twenty years.
- "Library" of about fifty Irish books. Album covers of The Clancy Brothers, The Wolf Tones and others from the mid_20th Century.

Library's Baby Grand Jazz Series Plays On, Medusa Performs this Sunday

Hartford Public Library (HPL) is rolling along with its virtual 2021 Baby Grand Jazz (BGJ) series, made possible by the Kaman Foundation. Due to the current pandemic, the concerts are only available online. BGJ concerts run every Sunday through April 25, 2021 at 3 pm and can be enjoyed online on either HPL's Facebook page or YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/HPLCT) .

Medusa was founded in 2010 by Tap dancer Corey Hutchins and percussionist Jocelyn Pleasant. They wanted to change the way Jazz music was seen and especially heard. Medusa is a statement band that wants to be heard as they bring the two great American art forms of Jazz music and Rhythm Tap dancing together in a smooth mix of jazz standards and tap dancing at its highest level. Corey Hutchins has been with the Broadway sensation Riverdance and performed around the world as well as the White House in 2010. Jocelyn has made her mark in the community and performance scenes over the past 15 years.

BGJ 2021 Schedule

- February 7 – Medusa
- February 14 – The John Kordalewski Trio
- February 21 – Charu Surl and Friends
- February 28 – Big Read kickoff
- March 7 – HGTS
- March 14 – Kyoko Oyobe
- March 21 – Jimmy Gavagan Trio
- March 28 – New England Jazz Ensemble
- April 4 – EASTER (No concert)
- April 11 – Jonathan Barber and Vision Ahead
- April 18 – People of Goodwill
- April 25 – Nelson Bello

For more information about the series, visit <https://www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz>.

You Turn Me On, I'm a Radio

Since 1947, the hits and more just keep on coming from Summit Street

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

"If you're driving into town with a dark cloud above you, dial in the number who's bound to love you" (Joni Mitchell)

"Dr. Love" has a rasp in his voice and sounds like he's in need of a good night's sleep, but that doesn't prevent him from talking about the many hours he spends each week in the Trinity College studio where radio station WRTC—89.3 on the FM dial—broadcasts an eclectic blend of music 24/7/365. Call him a host, a deejay, a programmer, or whatever, but no matter your taste in tunes, you're bound to find something you love among this 25-year veteran's variety of shows that feature funk, love songs, old school from the '50s and '60s, smooth jazz, and on Saturdays—gospel, preceded by mood music for grownups that he slyly refers to as "bedtime stories".

He chooses his programming by instinct. "I scan stations all over the world to see what they're playing and that's how I decide what I'll put out there. Thanks to the magic of streaming radio, he says

"I've got listeners in the Midwest, Chicago, and even California." These days, the dark cloud of the pandemic hovers over people who await the vaccine and hope for a return to something resembling "normal". Every day, the news brings another reason for concern. Is this a time when radio music is even more important, providing an escape from those worries by

offering its soothing—or often upbeat—charms? Dr. Love thinks so. "Yeah, I feel people are reaching out to radio more than before, especially because so many are always in the house now." While he's on the air, some listeners communicate with him through WRTC's website or by text; an unseen visitor welcomed into their homes.

Lorna Shipp, a Bridgeport native, is another station stalwart. She's been at WRTC for 2 ½ years, but has spent decades in broadcasting. Her "Mixed Bag of Jazz" program airs on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. and covers the spectrum of jazz genres, considered to be America's one true original art form. Lorna elaborates: "I hand-pick every single song—classics, fusion, smooth grooves, funk, rhythm & blues, but all that fit into a jazz idiom." And her choices span the decades, sometimes reaching back to Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, through Miles Davis and on to Grover Washington, Anita Baker, Luther Vandross, all the way up to contemporary artists. "My goal and purpose is to use what I'm

doing to lift people up. In the current climate "people don't always have that outlet. I know that if I had to work from home I'd have to figure out how to escape from the sense of isolation. Music always seems to be the one thing that does that." She also stressed that

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How To Testify at a Legislative Hearing

By Brandon McGee, State Representative, 5th District

Dear Neighbor,
As we all begin to navigate the upcoming virtual legislative session, I wanted to provide you with the resources to ensure your voice is heard. Though COVID-19 has closed the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building to the public, you can still testify and participate in public hearings from your home.

Below, I have outlined the steps to testify at a public hearing:

- Review the bulletin daily and check to see which committees are having public hearings.
- Use the “On-line Testimony Registration Form” link in the notice to register to testify. You can also call the number listed if you do not have access to the internet.*Make sure you have noted the bill or resolution number(s) you plan to testify on because you will need that to complete the form.
- If you’re registering online, you’ll be taken to the Webinar registration page for the hearing at which you would like to testify. Make sure to review the details of the hearing closely to confirm that you are registering for the correct hearing.
- You will need to scroll down to find the registration form. The form requests the same information that committee staff would ask you if you were signing up to testify in-person.
- Once you submit the form, you’ll receive a pending approval notice to the email address you included in the form. Make sure to keep the information in this notice handy.
- Within 24 hours, after you have registered to testify, you will receive an email confirming that you have signed up for the hearing. If you need to cancel, there is the “cancel” link in the bottom left corner. *Please note that there is a deadline to register to testify. You can find the exact time and date that registration closes for a particular hearing listed in the bulletin.
- On the morning of the hearing, a speaker list will be generated and posted on the committee page. Go to “Public Hearings” and click “testimony” and select the hearing date. In the right corner, there will be a document labeled “Speaker Order.” Click to open and find your placement.
- Make sure to log onto Zoom before the hearing starts and turn off camera/microphone until it is your turn. You will have to wait to speak as if you are sitting in a hearing room.
- You can monitor every public hearing this session in real-time on each committee’s official Youtube channel (accessible at cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/broadcastmedia.asp under the "CGA Live Streaming Feeds" heading). Some public hearings are also broadcast live on CT-N.

You have the ability to affect change through testimony at public hearings. I hope that everyone will use the resource outlined above to share your stories. Lawmakers are looking forward to hearing your voice.

As always, if you are not interested in testifying, but you have a story to be told, please contact me at brandon.mcgee@cga.ct.gov so I may advocate on your behalf. To receive legislative updates please like my Official Facebook Page.

Sincerely,
Brandon McGee

Hartford Foundation Awards Four Grants to Engage, Educate and Organize Residents on Housing Segregation

According to a 2015 federal study of 21 states, Connecticut had the second highest concentration of affordable housing in high-poverty neighborhoods, behind only Mississippi.

Most affordable housing in Greater Hartford is concentrated in Hartford, with relatively little affordable housing existing in the surrounding suburban towns. Statewide, 73 percent of Blacks and Latinos live in low and very low opportunity areas compared to 26 percent of Whites and 36 percent of Asians.

In an effort to reduce this problem, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) has organized investments towards the desired outcome of increasing the number of Hartford residents who are living in higher opportunity neighborhoods in Hartford and throughout the region.

The segregation of our communities by income and race/ethnicity was caused and exacerbated by a wide variety of structural barriers created by our state’s history of redlining, as well as currently enforced local zoning codes and other land use laws, government subsidy programs, and a variety of other factors.

By supporting resident education on the history of these policies and their impacts, paired with

a public policy agenda, the Hartford Foundation seeks to promote a more inclusive and sustainable future for the region.

To this end, the Foundation sent out a request for proposals designed to engage, educate and organize Greater Hartford residents on issues of housing segregation and pathways to more inclusive housing development in urban and suburban communities.

The Foundation has awarded four, one-year grants totaling \$70,000 to support these activities, including grants to Summer of Solutions and TALK to pro-



Orlena Visits Hartford

February opened with a blast as Storm Orlena dumped about a foot of snow on Hartford on Monday, February 1, and into the early hours of Tuesday. It was Connecticut’s first major storm of 2021 as January had passed with minimal amounts of snow. Although most stores and businesses closed on Monday due to the storm and hazardous driving conditions, CT Transit kept its buses running throughout the day. A Number 47 bus is shown above cruising down Franklin Avenue in the early stages of the storm on Monday morning. In the distance a City of Hartford Department of Public Works plow can be seen. Most roads were cleared by Tuesday morning. (Hart photo)

Yard Goats Foundation to Host Virtual Panel Discussion on the Impact of Racism February 18

The Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Club, the Double-A Eastern League affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, has announced plans to host a virtual panel on The Impact of Racism on Thursday, February 18th at 6:30pm in observance of Black History Month. Tiffany Young, Executive Director of the Hartford Yard Goats Foundation, will moderate a discussion on challenges, achievements, and personal experiences amidst the backdrop of the larger national discussion on systemic racism. Registrants will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout the discussion.

Panelists include:

- Sean L. Gibson, Executive Director, Josh Gibson Foundation
- Clyde McDoughty, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, Bowie State University

- Jonathon O’Neil Cole, CEO/Founding Partner, Pendulum
- Scot X. Esdaile, President, Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branch/NAACP National Board Member Chairman/State of Connecticut Boxing Commission, NAACP
- Nichelle Mullins, President & CEO, Charter Oak Health Center
- Doug Glanville, Baseball Analyst, Multi-Media Journalist, Educator, Author, Speaker, Advocate, and Retired MLB Player, ESPN/ MLB


The panel will be hosted via a Zoom Webinar. Attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants, but the event will be live on the Yard Goats Facebook page as well. To register, visit www.yardgoatsbaseball.com or Yard Goats social pages on Facebook and Twitter.

Letters to the Editor

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Latest Addition to Colt Park

If you want to add a little whimsy to your winter walk, take a stroll by the newly decorated Colt Park fence along Wethersfield Avenue. (Donna Swarr photo)



Socially Distanced Cats...But No Masks

You’ve heard it from Dr. Fauci, and now even cats are socially distancing. (Photo courtesy of Bill Katz)

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Interval House Teams with Local Schools for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

As part of its ongoing commitment to prevention education, Interval House is partnering with Covenant Preparatory School and Grace Academy during February’s National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Students in 7th and 8th grades will participate in several virtual activities, including online presentations by Interval House’s community educator, crafting a social media awareness campaign as well as curriculum projects created by teachers and fellow students. Educators from the two schools will be panelists during a special “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” Teen Dating Violence Awareness webinar, hosted by Interval House and members of Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence (MMAD) at noon on Friday, February 12.

“We’re so grateful to have these outstanding schools and their bright students collaborating with us on such an important topic,” said Mary-Jane Foster, Interval House’s President and CEO. “We know that breaking the cycle of domestic violence must start by educating young people about healthy relationships.”

Teachers at the schools will also be using a special toolkit curriculum created by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence designed to educate teens about healthy relationships through classroom activities.

“At Covenant Prep, our mission is to help our students excel in all facets of life,” said Armando Jimenez, Covenant’s Head of School and member of MMAD. “Making sure they understand what healthy relationships are and look like is so important to breaking the chain of dating violence that reaches into all of our communities.”

The statistics of teen dating abuse are staggering. More than 1.5 million high school students across the country report being physically abused in their dating relationships. One in three young women in the US reports being a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from their dating partner. To learn more about teen dating violence, visit

www.intervalhousect.org/teen-dating.

“This is learned behavior and we must do more to help teens avoid violence and fear in their dating relationships,” Foster said. “Young people need our help to understand that there’s never, ever, an excuse for abuse.”

About Interval House: Founded in 1977, Interval House is the largest agency in the state of Connecticut dedicated to preventing and breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Through its direct service and community outreach in 24 towns and cities both East and West of the Connecticut River, Interval House has touched the lives of more than 250,000 people over four decades. 24-Hour Hotline: (888) 774-2900. Donations accepted: www.intervalhousect.org/donate. All other calls: (860) 246-9149. Website: www.intervalhousect.org.

About Covenant Preparatory School: Covenant Preparatory School is a tuition-free, independent day school for boys, grades 5-8. The school provides a challenging academic program in a supportive learning environment. It also strives to graduate young men who are academically and socially prepared for high school, inspired to lead their lives in the pursuit of excellence, model leadership and integrity, and are committed to their communities. Since 2011, the school -- that has a maximum of 60 students -- has graduated 11 classes of 8th graders who went on to attend a variety of private and public high schools and colleges/universities across the region.

About Grace Academy: Grace Academy is a comprehensive educational program for girls’ grades 5-8. The school provides a rare opportunity for students to experience a tuition-free, college preparatory education in an atmosphere of respect and responsibility. It offers a structured, challenging and supportive educational program for students of all faiths in Hartford. The school works to inspire intellectual, spiritual, moral, social, creative and athletic growth of each young girl and to nurture in a small-school setting the full potential of her whole character.

More than 1.5 million high school students across the country report being physically abused in their dating relationships. One in three young women in the US reports being a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from their dating partner.

PLAY BALL!

Do you plan to use one of the City’s athletic fields this spring?

BY DONNA SWARR

My Rec’s Field Reservation System is the City of Hartford’s online way to reserve an athletic field. The system will – hopefully – be opening up for the spring. There are several new enhancements to the online system’s processes as well as some reminders.

On January 27th, the Department of Public Works held its annual field reservation meeting. Due to the pandemic, this year the actual date when the fields will be re-opened has not as yet been determined. Organizations were reminded about the requirement to notify DPW of any serious injuries.

One big improvement is that if there is a cancellation on the weekend, there will be someone at DPW available to reschedule a reservation. You can now pay the fees online using a credit card or by using an online check transaction. Another new feature is a digital roster. Your account will show payments, permits, and if you are missing an insurance certificate. User expectations were reviewed: Cleaning up after use, no alcohol permitted in the city



Spring Schedule Sharing Meetings

Tuesday Feb, 9, 2021	First Priority
Wednesday, Feb 10, 2021	Second Priority
Thursday, Feb 11, 2021	All of users

Spring Schedule MyRec Open for Reservations at Noon

Monday Feb, 15, 2021	First Priority
Monday, Feb 21, 2021	Second Priority
Monday, March 1, 2021	All of users

parks, permits are not transferable, and permits must be available to be shown at the field. Any violations of these expectations can result in having your permit revoked. Meetings will be held with the organizations in each of the priority levels to review conflicts.

Tentative dates for field reservations are provided below. If you have questions, contact Mark Dowd, Superintendent of Parks, 860-757-4961 or email Mark.Dowd@hartford.gov. To create an account, go to <https://hartfordct.myrec.com/>.

Growing Your Own and Getting Ready for Disruption

BY ANTHONY CHEROLIS

On December 25th, 2020 I harvested young, tender Daikon radishes and greens from my community garden plot. Earlier that morning I had woken up sweating under my down comforter, as it had spiked to a damp 63 degrees Fahrenheit at 6:00 am. On that Christmas day over two inches of rain fell across the state. That is the most rainfall on record for this day with recording that started in 1905.

One might look at the late harvest as a windfall, but it left me concerned. This year Connecticut saw its hottest summer on record coupled with severe drought conditions. We are now well into an era of record breaking weird and disrupted weather.

The drought was severe enough that parts of the state had woodland brush fires. Despite my community garden winter harvest, farmers were challenged this year with the high temperatures and drought. Personally, my backyard raised beds struggled in the summer heat. Even after adding a second rain barrel I found myself using tap water when those barrels went dry.

The US and the larger world have not gotten our addiction to fossil fuels under control. Global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. The December 2020 radish harvest spurred thinking about our global food systems that we take for granted. The climbing temperatures, changes in growing seasons, and increasingly severe weather fluctuations will wreak havoc on those systems that thrive on stability and predictability. The food shortages and mass migrations that we have seen on the news as isolated (not here) events will soon affect wide swathes of humanity.

What can we do? Well. It doesn't seem healthy to just freak out and shut down. Here are things that will help us build resiliency into our home and community food systems. This past year I've gotten enough garden space under way that around 80% of my veggies are taken care of locally or by trading my extras with other gardeners. Next year my small orchard will hopefully start producing, bringing apples and cherries into local production to supplement the foraging that I'm able to do.

Start a garden or expand the garden you've got now. Put time into your yard or condo green space that provides productive, healthy and fresh vegetables. Extend your growing season with a couple of simple cold frames to keep growing hearty greens through these now warmer winters.

Stop using pesticides and herbicides in your lawn and garden. Let the dandelions and other flowering lawn plants thrive alongside what grass you keep. Give the bees, birds, worms, and soil microbes something to work with.

Plant fruit and nut trees. Put some in your yard, or get your city or town to include fruit and nut trees in their park and landscape plantings. Not quite visible, but in the photo below, there is a fledgling fruit orchard beyond the raised bed gardens with apple, cherry, and Paw Paw saplings.



Backyard raised bed garden, Hartford - Late December 2020

I can't wait for those trees to start contributing to my own and my community's food supply. Nearby in Hartford's Colt Park the city recently planted a small apple orchard!

Set up a rain barrel or three. Rainwater capture and reuse will cut down on your water expenses and is better for the garden. Tap water is often chlorinated. Hartford residents can request a free rain barrel and a compost bin. Even if you don't score a free one, the small investment is worth it in the long run.

Make your own rich soil from kitchen scraps and yard and garden waste. Set up a compost pile or compost bins. You'll be cutting down on waste shipping and incinerated waste pollution while feeding your soil and family. I set up a two-bin compost system and I've included newspaper and paper towel and tissue waste from my household along with the kitchen scraps. One bin fills up while the other bin sits for a year and breaks down into rich soil that I can till into my nearby raised bed garden plots. In the photo below, you can see two compost barrels unobtrusively tucked into the corner of our urban condo yard.

If you're in a city or apartment, work with the city to convert park space or empty lots to community gardening plots. In cities, make sure they test the soil and you may need to use raised beds if the soil in place isn't clean enough to garden in. There are many underutilized green spaces that with a minimal amount of work + rain barrels can be put to work growing food in urban neighborhoods.

Stop Wasteful and Sprawling Land Use: Make sure that cities and towns aren't developing green spaces and former farms into single family housing or big box industrial buildings. As our Connecticut growing season gets longer and the global food supply gets less predictable, do we really want to sacrifice our local food production acreage?

A Vision for Golf Courses: The City of Hartford has two large golf courses, Goodwin and Keney. These should be seen as opportunities for food production that could be quickly converted in a crisis to serve city residents and the region. Our city parks and golf courses are acres that haven't yet been gobbled up by suburban and rural single family housing sprawl. We should keep an open and responsive mind as to how those important green spaces get used as our weather and climate get less and less predictable.

Library to Partner With Foodshare to Create Food Pantry at Barbour Branch

Thanks to a partnership with Foodshare, Hartford Public Library's Barbour Branch Library, 261 Barbour Street, will now become a food distribution center for Northeast neighborhood families in addition to offering regular library services.

Shelf-stable groceries and fresh fruit, when available, will be distributed outdoors at the branch, the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 3 to 4 pm while the branch is closed to the public.

"We are extremely excited to

strongest anchor institutions in Hartford. HPL is not just a traditional public library; the HPL offers various holistic services to our community. HPL and all their branches are at the center of our communities. Community members' love, trust, and know they can receive assistance and help from the library," said Yahaira Escribano, programs partner coordinator for Foodshare.

The library will also partner with "Our Piece of the Pie," a non-profit organization dedicated to



Hartford Public Library's Barbour Branch, located at 261 Barbour Street (Unity Plaza) is partnering with Foodshare and Our Piece of the Pie to become a food distribution center for neighborhood residents. To introduce the new program a special "Poetry & Kisses" event will be held at the branch from 3-4 pm on Thursday, February 11. There will be poetry readings, free Hershey's Kisses, free groceries, free children's coats, free books and more. (Hartford Public Library photo)

embark on this partnership with Foodshare and to continue our commitment to serving the people of the Northeast neighborhood in ways that will feed their hearts, minds, and bodies," said Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL's president and CEO.

"I strongly believe Hartford Public Library is one of our

empowering youth with the key competencies needed to overcome barriers and succeed in education and employment. Teenagers affiliated with the non-profit will work at the Barbour Library helping to bag and distribute the food.

"It is so needed in this neighborhood," said Irene Blean, manager

Continued on page 6

Protecting Each Other. Together. Flu and COVID-19 Vaccinations in Hartford.



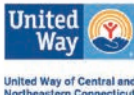
Flu shots for individuals of all ages and COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible residents.

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WheelerClinic.org/Vaccinate-Hartford

This initiative is made possible through funding from the City of Hartford, in coordination with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.



A sliding fee scale is available based on family size and income. No patient will be denied health care services due to an individual's inability to pay. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Improvements to the Family Health & Wellness Center are supported in part by the State of Connecticut Nonprofit Grant Program, the Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority, the Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, and the Ensworth Charitable Foundation. Additional support is provided by Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation. Wheeler is a Health Center program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233 (g)-(r).

Barbour Library Food Pantry

Continued from page 5

of the Barbour Library. “We want to support the whole person.”

The Library and Foodshare started working together about a year and a half ago, specifically providing after-school and summer snacks for children. The two organizations had been in conversations on how to deepen their relationship, said Bonnie Solberg, coordinator of branch services.

“We were looking for a way to expand our partnership where we can do it right now,” Solberg said. “In these challenging times, this kind of outreach gives us the opportunity to have an immediate impact.”

Marie Jarry, director of public services, believes this is the first time in Connecticut that a library and Foodshare have entered into a formal partnership. If the program is successful at Barbour, the library may look for ways to extend food distribution to other branches. “The need is increasing,” Jarry said.

Blean believes that this is also an opportunity to extend what would be considered more traditional library services. To that end, Blean is holding a Valentine’s Day themed event in conjunction with the first food distribution on February 11.

Blean and her team will recite poetry and hand out chocolate

Hershey kisses to whomever comes to the library from 3 to 4 pm. The Library on Wheels will also be on hand to distribute novels by bestselling author Eric Jerome Dickey, and other romance titles.

“We hope to create more engagement in what we are offering,” Blean said.

In addition to the bags of groceries, Blean and her team will distribute 25 new children’s winter coats donated by Lawrence International.

The School Choice Coordinator, a Hartford Behavioral Health representative, and the Library’s intern from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work will be present at the event to provide assistance.

For more information about Foodshare, visit foodshare.org.

For more information about Our Piece of the Pie, visit opp.org.

For more information about Hartford Public Library, visit hplct.org.

COVID Discussion

Continued from page 1

Keith Grant said that the most common side effects from the vaccines are fatigue and some soreness at the injection site. The timing for the 2nd dose is between 21-28 days, but it’s okay to wait up to six weeks. Dr. Everette noted that it is important to focus locally, as in Connecticut people of color have died disproportionately due to exposure as essential and frontline workers in healthcare.

Dr. Papernik is finding that his patients are confused. He’s having his patients sign up when they have other appointments. He believes that the two-step process is problematic, and is hoping that the newer vaccine, which only requires one shot, will be available soon, and that it will increase the number of people who get vaccinated. At Charter Oak, Nichelle Mullins said that most questions are about how to get an appointment and where they can go to get it. COHC is trying to simplify the process for patients, and even if you aren’t a patient, they will help you with VAM, the state appointment system. They’re organizing an offsite vaccination center at the Parkville Community Center. Also, as a result of the panel discussion, they will be going to Sanitas on Main Street. A vaccination site needs a lot of space due to the required 15-minute observation period after patients receive the vaccine.

Keith Grant reminded us that the vaccine protects you from getting a bad case of the virus, but it doesn’t mean that we don’t need to take precautions such as masking. This is to reduce the spread as we still have a lot to learn about transmission. Dr. Everett has been working to add co-morbidities (presence of two or more diseases or medical conditions in a patient) into the dis-



(Top Row): Dr. Morris Papernik, Sanitas Medical Center; Dr. Tekisha Everette, Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions and member of the Governor’s Vaccine Advisory Group; Mayor Luke Bronin; (Middle Row): Dr. Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, Chief of Infectious Diseases, St. Francis Hospital; Brandon Kazen-Maddox, American Sign Language Interpreter; Reginald Freeman, Hartford Fire Chief; (Bottom Row): Nichelle Mullins, President, Charter Oak Health Center; Liany Arroyo, City of Hartford Health Department Director; and Keith Grant, APRN Senior System Director for the Infection Prevention at Hartford Healthcare.

cussions for Phase 1B to address disparities of access to people of color. She remains committed to addressing the distribution and which vaccine people of color are receiving. She doesn’t want them to re-create the same disparities as in testing.

People had questions about how the vaccine might react with other medications they’re taking. Unless you have an allergy to it, it will not be a problem. If you use an EpiPen now, you should contact your healthcare provider with any questions. Many people who take autoimmune medications have voiced concern. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna have the virus in the vaccine, and some people are questioning its effectiveness. Hank Aaron died shortly after receiving his 2nd dose. Firstly, the full effectiveness of the vaccine does not happen for two weeks. But additionally, it doesn’t prevent other illnesses or deaths. Both Dr.

Abrantes-Figueiredo and Keith Grant urged people to get vaccinated and continue to practice all of the recommended preventive measures to stall the mutations or variations from occurring.

Nichelle Mullins at Charter Oak Healthcare said that patience is needed from everyone. She said that further guidance from the federal government is on its way. She believes there will be more clarity over the next few weeks about who is in the front line and essential worker category. Dr. Everette said that you can reach out to Health Equity Solutions via their Facebook page or website to ask questions.

Please note that these are the plans as of publication time. Depending on the federal government’s ongoing COVID-19 strategy, changes may occur. In the meantime, we need to do our part; get vaccinated, wear masks, wash our hands, and get tested.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
R. Nelson Griebel,
AKA Oz Griebel,
AKA Richard Nelson Griebel
(20-01079)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 7, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Christopher N. Griebel
c/o Alan S Parker
Pullman & Comley, LLC
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Andre Donovan Keene
(21-00040)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated January 27, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq.
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Tamara Keene
c/o Corey W Fong
Carter Mario Law Firm
176 Wethersfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114

Hartford Foundation

Continued from page 3

mote resident education and organizing in Hartford and Glastonbury, respectively, and grants to the Regional Plan Association and Sustainable CT to bring their expertise and education opportunities directly to residents. The Foundation is open to similar proposals from resident groups throughout the funding region and a Request for Proposals will be open to consider grants on a rolling basis throughout 2021 starting on January 1.

Regional Plan Association

\$25,000 grant to provide resident education about the origins, impact and reform possibilities of zoning laws and targeted messaging to diverse audiences. Grant supports the planning and implementation of Zoning 101 workshops for 40 Hartford and Greater Hartford residents as well as online polling, the creation of a video on zoning implications and targeted social media buys.

Summer of Solutions

\$10,000 grant to support organizing for Housing the Hood, an outgrowth of the organization’s parallel organizing effort, Feeding the Hood. Housing efforts are focused

on creating a coalition of tenants and housing agencies organizing around affordable housing development in the City through attendance at public meetings, workshops and door-to-door canvassing.

Sustainable CT, Inc.

\$25,000 grant to engage Greater Hartford residents, commissions, and town staff to co-create zoning practices that reverse housing segregation and promote housing choice, quality, and pathways to more inclusive housing development. In collaboration with Partnership for Strong Communities, 3-5 selected suburban towns will participate in opportunities to learn from residents impacted by housing inequity. Residents will be educated to participate in town meetings and Planning and Zoning Commission hearings.

TALK-Truth in Action with Love and Kindness

\$10,000 grant to lay the groundwork for expanding affordable housing opportunities in Glastonbury. In collaboration with Open Communities Alliance, the grant will provide training for Glastonbury residents on affordable housing issues so they can present to other community groups, hosting

of a community conversation, propose a revision to the town’s zoning practices, and provide input for the town’s affordable housing plan.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for Hartford and 28 surrounding communities. Made possible by the gifts of generous individuals, families and organizations, the Foundation has awarded grants of more than \$785 million since its founding in 1925. For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit www.hfpg.org or call 860-548-1888.

Mike McGarry

Continued from page 2

- Hartford Marriott Hotel
- The Cathedral of Saint Joseph Knights of Columbus
- Hartford Business Improvement District
- Rough Edges Art Productions
- John Downey (Historical Collection)
- Finley Government Strategies
- Hartford Blooms/KofC
- Lexington Partners, LAZ Investments, Shelbourne Global Investments

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News Briefs

Continued from page 1

answer questions about COVID-19 testing and vaccination. Public safety in the neighborhood will also be discussed. Those attending the meeting must wear masks and practice social distancing. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

HPD Now Recruiting for New Members

The Hartford Police Department is now recruiting for new members. Salary is \$52,866-\$71,480 annually. Benefits include a pension and retirement plan; educational incentives, health and dental plan and paid vacations. You must be at least 21 years old; a U.S. citizen; and have a valid driver's license and high school diploma or GED. For more information, go to: Instagram@hartfordctpolice_recruitment

Cultivating Hope at Library

Hartford Public Library will offer live and virtual versions on how to Learn To Cultivate Hope. The live event will include an art-related activity and will be held Wednesday, February 24, from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Downtown Library's Center for Contemporary Culture, 500 Main Street. The virtual Zoom

event will be held the following day, Thursday, February 25, from 7:00-8:00 pm and will include favorite quotes, songs, poems, or books that inspire hope for you. Call to register, 860-695-7401 or email iblean@hplct.org

Free Personal Financial Management Training

The City of Hartford, in partnership with the Connecticut Association for Human Services, has launched a Financial Navigator program to help residents manage the financial impact of COVID-19. Financial Navigators provide one-on-one telephone assistance – AT NO COST – to help residents deal with critical financial issues and will also make referrals to social services and resources. Through the program you will learn how to: Prioritize Payments; Maximize Income; Help Manage Debt; Assess Public and Social Services; and Avoid Predatory Scams. Register online at www.CAHS.org/HFN and a Financial Navigator will contact the you by phone.

Joan Dauber Food Bank on Tower Ave.

The Joan Dauber Food Bank, 675

Tower Avenue (Mount Sinai Hospital Campus of Trinity Healthcare) , Hartford, distributes food to those in need on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM and on the 3rd Saturday of the month (February 20) from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please bring an ID with your full name and address. Families are asked to limit themselves to one food package per month so that there is enough to go around. Call (860) 714-2845 for more information.

Hartford Police Explorers Taking New Members

Hartford youth between the ages of 13-20 who are interested in a career in law enforcement can now sign up for the Hartford Police Explorers program. The program provides training in law enforcement, social activities, leadership training, physical fitness programs, outdoor activities and more. You must maintain at least a C average in school, have no criminal record and be willing to attend explorer activities and commit to a code of conduct and uphold the image of the Hartford Police Department. You will also have to complete an oral interview and pass a background examination. For more information, contact HPD Sgt. Nikki Mordasiewicz at 860-757-4247 or shern001@hartford.gov.

WRTC

Continued from page 2

Trinity is adamant that all radio staff members using the studio be tested for COVID every week. “We wear masks, use hand sanitizer, and every surface, including microphones, is cleaned between shows.” At WRTC, the standard now is working alone in the studio, and with very few exceptions, the hosts also function as engineers.

“During this time of lockdown, WRTC is the only non-commercial radio station in the state of Connecticut that broadcasts live in the studio from start to finish. The others pre-record their shows and then upload the files that go out on the air.” Those words are from Chris Cowles, the station’s General Manager. Cowles, who has been with Trinity for 26 years came from a long career in print media at several news outlets. He also hosts a Saturday show, “Greasy Tracks”, that’s steeped in southern soul, but always manages to mix in late 1960s and early 1970s British blues stylists, and extended acid jazz and fusion instrumentals. Cowles also contributed his journalism skills to a comprehensive and fascinating biography/history of the station that appears on the WRTC’s website. WRTC features 60-plus weekly programs, ranging from rock, jazz, Caribbean, Latin and

soul to hip-hop, funk, gospel, and blues. “We had the longest-running Polish music program in the state that ended only when the host passed away”, as well as a weekly airing of Broadway show tunes that was a local favorite. And there’s more than music. The station offers broadcasts of Trinity sports, interviews with artists and writers, and community talk shows. In addition to community programmers (all volunteers), there are Trinity College student hosts, a student Executive Board, and Bailey Irwin, the current student Station Manager. Most of the students are on break now and off-campus, but will be returning on February 20th. WRTC also offers in-studio training for both students and the community.

Whether you’re driving into and around town in any corner of Connecticut, listening at home, or streaming the station through your computer or phone, WRTC 89.3 FM is always there with the programming that can turn you on.

For a lot more information and the program schedule, check out wrtcfm.com

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Room for Rent

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22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

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El Informativo Latino

Gobernador levanta algunas restricciones del COVID-19 en restaurantes y algunos lugares de adoración

Los lugares de adoración ahora pueden tener hasta un 50% de capacidad sin límite y el toque de queda para los restaurantes se ha extendido a medida que la tasa de positividad de COVID-19 y las hospitalizaciones continúan con una tendencia a la baja.

Por primera vez en meses, tanto la tasa de positividad como el número de hospitalizaciones han bajado.

Anteriormente, los lugares de adoración tenían que reducir sus límites de capacidad. En la reapertura de la fase 2.1, los lugares de adoración podrían tener hasta un 50% de capacidad en interiores, pero esa capacidad se limitó a 100 personas con máscaras y se requería distanciamiento social.

Ahora, ese 50% de capacidad permanece igual pero sin limitaciones en la cantidad de personas.

El gobernador Ned Lamont dijo que aún se requieren máscaras y distanciamiento social.

En cuanto a los restaurantes y otros negocios, el toque de queda vigente ahora se

extiende hasta las 11 p.m. El toque de queda era antes de las 10 p.m.

"Apreciamos que el gobernador y su equipo continúen trabajando con nuestra industria con un enfoque en la reapertura de la economía de Connecticut. Este es otro paso en esa dirección, y la hora extra será un beneficio para los restaurantes de todo el estado", dijo el ejecutivo. El director de CT Restaurant Association, Scott Dolch, dijo en un comunicado.

Al mismo tiempo, es importante que tomemos más medidas en las próximas semanas, incluido el levantamiento total de este toque de queda, tal como lo han hecho los vecinos Massachusetts y Rhode Island. Connecticut puede seguir siendo un líder en la lucha contra COVID y al mismo tiempo ser consciente de nuestra recuperación económica ", continuó.

Estos cambios entrarán en vigencia dentro de las próximas 24 horas, dijeron funcionarios estatales durante una conferencia de prensa el lunes.

By Iris Rodriguez

Nuevos números de COVID-19

- La tasa de positividad de COVID-19 del estado se mantiene estable en 3.86% y 73 personas más han muerto a causa del virus durante el fin de semana.
- El número de muertos por coronavirus en Connecticut es ahora de 7.119.
- De más de 101.000 pruebas realizadas, 3.931 dieron positivo. Un total de 253,954 residentes del estado han dado positivo al virus desde que surgió.
- El viernes, la tasa de resultados positivos de la prueba COVID-19 de Connecticut se redujo al 3.64%.
- Las hospitalizaciones se han reducido en un 73 durante los últimos tres días. Ahora hay 912 personas con el virus en hospitales estatales.

Actualizaciones de CT COVID-19: El funcionario dice que el esfuerzo de la vacuna está dando sus frutos en los hogares de ancianos de CT

Un alto funcionario de Connecticut dice que se han administrado vacunas COVID-19 a suficientes residentes en hogares de ancianos del estado para detener potencialmente la transmisión del virus entre esos residentes. Josh Geballe, director de operaciones del estado, dijo el sábado que los hogares de ancianos de Connecticut están informando que entre el 90% y el 100% de los residentes han recibido al menos la primera de dos vacunas. Dijo que el número de casos semanales de COVID-19 en residencias de ancianos ha disminuido un 66% en las últimas tres semanas. Geballe dijo que algunas dosis de vacunas que se habían destinado a residencias de ancianos se están reasignando a hospitales y centros comerciales. *By Iris Rodriguez*

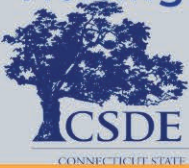
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